

State of Connecticut
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February 18, 2014

Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to your committee.

I am writing in support of SB 32, AAC Working Families' Wages, and HB 5069, AAC Low Wage Employers.

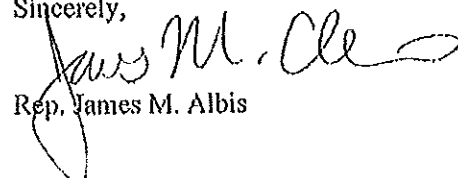
I support these bills because they are good for our economy and good for Connecticut taxpayers. I believe that a rising tide lifts all boats – that the economy is driven by consumer demand, and the more spending money folks have in their pockets, the more they are going to spend at local businesses, which will in turn allow those businesses to invest more in their workforce and get some of our unemployed back to work.

I also support these bills because they are the right thing to do. Currently, workers making minimum wage at a full-time job make poverty-level wages, and the majority of minimum wage workers rely on that income to pay their bills day in and day out. Minimum wage has not kept pace with inflation and increases in worker productivity, so those dollars don't go nearly far enough. Asking for an increase to a \$10.10 minimum wage is a modest request that will improve the lives of many.

Large, big box store employers that pay below the standard wage hurt both their employees that are being paid at a sub-standard rate and taxpayers as a whole who front the costs of subsidizing food, health care, and other services to these workers. If large employers value their employees and the consumers that shop at their stores, they should be willing and able to pay a standard wage that benefits the economy as a whole, lifting all boats.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Rep. James M. Albis